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With the growth of digital modes, the current limitations on data to 10 meters is not good for new people in the hobby. Technicians have CW on 15, 40, and 80 meters. It would make sense to allow narrower bandwidth modes such as data.

Adding voice to the lower portions of the same bands allows newcomers the ability to communicate world-wide. The current allocations rarely provide long distance voice communications. Giving access to the lower portion of a limited number of bands would give newcomers a taste of HF communications and would encourage them to upgrade to get more privileges.

The comments that say that current Technicians do not have enough skill, knowledge, or may cause interference are unfounded. Rules and regulations are part of the Technician material. They already know which bands and modes they are permitted to operate. They already have CW privileges in 15, 40, and 80 meters and there is no evidence that Technicians have been causing interference in these bands. This is merely expanding the modes available and adding a little voice to the same bands that Technicians already have access to.

I respectfully urge the FCC to approve the proposed rule.

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